

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes, January 8, 2020

Members present: Art Quintana, Susan Alling, Sara Beery, Michelle Cregut, Jeannine Tarrant, Jack Belchinsky, Prudence Carter

Excused: Sheila

Guests: Michele Waite; City Council Liaison Marcia Martin; Macie May; Rose Janke

Jeannine presided and introduced visitors. Susan moved, Jeannine seconded, that the December 4, 2019 minutes be approved as corrected. **Passed.**

PRESENTATION

Macie May, Longmont Public Media, explained new city policies regarding videotaping and recording official city events, including meetings of this Board, and how such records will be made available to the public via the public TV channel, city website, etc.. Public Media staff will be present for each recording but not participate in meetings. The Board discussed how these changes will likely cause changes in the “culture” of our meetings and make members more formal and thoughtful about our statements.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Members are encouraged to attend the Friends annual meeting and should RSVP to the invitation. There are currently 4 vacancies on the Friends board.
- B. Michele reported on the update of the city’s Envision Longmont plan’s Aging Well component. A calendar for the process is attached. The intent is to present the work product to Council in May (Older Americans month). Michele emphasized that Longmont’s plan is unique in that other city’s plans often focus on land use issues, while ours includes planning for human services, affordable housing, etc. The Board appreciates the inclusion of plans for senior citizens in the comprehensive plan because it emphasizes the city’s priorities to focus on elders’ needs. **We will request an update in February reviewing the overall Envision plan contents and**

how such subjects as infrastructure improvement will impact seniors; as a first step our Board should meet with Recreation department staff.

- C. When Channel 8 ceased operation they gave their TV equipment to Senior Services, and it will continue to be used by our TV production club.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The following officers were nominated and approved for 2020: president Jeannine Tarrant, vice president Susan Alling, and secretary Sara Beery.
- B. Jeannine moved, Susan seconded, that our Board meetings in 2020 will be the first Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Senior Center. **Passed.**
- C. Jeannine moved, Michelle seconded, that notice of Board meetings be posted at the Senior Center, Recreation Center, and Civic Center building. **Passed.**
- D. Annual report preparation: Michele and Jeanine will prepare an initial draft for the Board's review.
- E. Susan and Jack will attend Coffee with Council on January 25 and be responsible for logistic support.
- F. The Board expressed concern about the delays in implementing the MOW's lock box program; Michele will follow up with Public Safety.

PRESENTATION

Veronica Garcia and Amy Payan, staff resource specialists, reported on their work experience in 2019. They saw approximately 800 individual clients, providing case management for low income seniors without family or other supportive helpers. They administer funds provided by the Friends and Aging Services for dental aid, help with rental deposits and first month rent prepayment, utility costs, hearing aids, home updates, and automobile repairs to assist homeless seniors. They plan greater partnership with the nonprofit Dental Aid and state government to meet the great need for dental assistance. They already partner with Aging Services and Adult Protection and other agencies to maximize efficient delivery of services to seniors. Providing information and assistance in navigating housing assistance programs (waiting lists, financial eligibility, etc.) is a large part of their workload. Statistics show that 8 clients avoided eviction with Senior Services help, 36 reported homelessness, 47 lost their homes because they were priced

out of the rental market, 11 retained housing and 16 obtained affordable housing with RS help. They hope to recruit more volunteers in 2020 to expand their available services.

REPORTS

- A. Michele will recommend that Michelle Cregut continue to represent the Board on the Trust Technical Review Group (TRG). She has sent a letter of support for Cinnamon Park's plan to construct independent senior housing.
- B. Michele is working with Longmont United Hospital to see that services of their Integrative Medicine program will be continued. She is interviewing applicants for a new custodian's position, and recruiting for a new resource specialist position. She has been appointed to the new Climate Change Action Task Force.
- C. Census Bureau is having difficulty finding employees to work on the 2020 Census; the pay rate is \$12 per hour.

Adjourned.

Submitted by Sara Beery